

Next step should be overturning Roe v. Wade

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The decision by the U.S. Supreme Court upholding the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 has added more salt to the wound of our deeply divisive debate over abortion in America. No matter where you stand on abortion, this decision has once again revealed what is becoming increasingly evident: Roe v. Wade needs to go.

The most important reason why the Supreme Court should overrule Roe is that the right to abortion is simply not in our written Constitution. For those who haven't gone to law school, here's a not so secret fact that usually doesn't make its way into mainstream discussions of Roe: The decision is universally considered one of the worst reasoned, most unpersuasive, and least justified opinions in American history, even by those who support abortion rights!

If you care about our Constitution, you should agree that it is simply wrong for the Supreme Court to impose its moral and policy preferences on the American people without any basis for doing so in the Constitution.

At the end of the day, we can all agree that abortion policy is a critically important area with much at stake. But this debate ought to be had in our town hall meetings and state legislatures, not the U.S. Supreme Court. Whether you are "pro-life" or "pro-choice" or somewhere in between, removing this issue from the democratic process without any Constitutional authority to do so was wrong in 1973 when Roe was decided, and it remains wrong today. Brian K. Hagedorn

Someone has to speak for justice and humanity

Rick Matthews' column of April 25 sends a vibrant message to all of us fence sitters. "If not me, who?" was a question asked by an ancient Rabbi. Dietrich Bonhoeffer withstood inhuman pressure designed by the Nazis to break his will to speak out for justice and humanity which finally led to his execution.

Now Professor Matthews can be added to those crying out in the wilderness for ethical responsibility. I add a correction for the number of Jews murdered in the Holocaust. It was over 6 million. The "nearly" number does not include the children who were not on the train manifests or the Jews who died in concentration camps and shot on the streets or burned to death in the ghetto where no one counted. Bob Poplar
Editor's note: Letters are welcome. They can be sent to "Voice of the People," the Kenosha News, 5800 Seventh Ave., Kenosha, WI, 53140, or e-mailed to vop@kenoshanews.com. Letters should be written as concisely as possible and should not exceed 275 words.